

# Countable and uncountable

## Sustantivos contables y no contables

- ◆ Los **sustantivos contables** son los que pueden ser contados y tienen una forma singular y plural.  
*p.e. one book, two books, three books*

- ◆ En el singular, ponemos **a/an** antes del sustantivo contable.

**a + sonido consonante** (/b/, /d/, /g/, /f/, /l/, /p/, etc.)

**an + sonido vocal** (/æ/, /e/, /i/, /ɔ/, /ʌ/, etc.)



a hat



two hats



an umbrella



two umbrellas

- ◆ Los **sustantivos no contables** son los que no pueden ser contados y generalmente no tienen plural. Estos sustantivos incluyen:

**alimentos:** *cheese, butter, meat, salt, pepper, bread, chocolate, honey, jam, etc.*

**líquidos:** *coffee, milk, water, tea, lemonade, petrol, oil, etc.*

**materiales:** *gold, iron, silver, wood, paper, etc.*

**sustantivos abstractos:** *beauty, love, happiness, etc.*

**otros:** *hair, money, news, snow, furniture, weather, advice, etc.*

- ◆ Los **sustantivos no contables** van seguidos de un verbo en singular. No se utiliza '**a/an**' ni '**one**' pero se puede utilizar **some**. '**Some**' también se puede utilizar con sustantivos contables en plural.

*p.e. There is **some** meat in the fridge.*

*(NO: There ~~are some meats~~ in the fridge.)*

*There is **some** bread on the table.*

*(NO: There ~~is a bread~~ on the table.)*

**some + sustantivo no contable**

**some + sustantivo contable en plural**



some meat  
(NO: ~~a meat~~)



some  
books

**Countable or uncountable?" - That is the question.**

*Ej. a car, a book, an umbrella*

*Ej. water, soup, weather (el tiempo)*

*Titanic is a good film.*

Spain has good weather (No se dice a good weather)

Tabla resumen:

|             |          | affirmative | negative | interrogative |
|-------------|----------|-------------|----------|---------------|
| countable   | singular | a / an      |          |               |
|             | plural   | some        | any      |               |
| uncountable |          |             |          |               |

**Ejercicio:** Intenta poner las siguientes palabras en dos grupos distintos (los nombres contables e incontables)

**a banana      a glass of whisky      orange juice      tea      chocolate cake**  
**mushrooms      an omelette      cheese      red wine      a tomato biscuits      chicken**  
**soup      chips      fruit      a cup of coffee      beer**

[illegible]

**¡Cuidado!**

Some tea - a cup of tea  
 (té) (una taza de té)  
 Some beer - a bottle of beer  
 (cerveza) (una botella de cerveza)  
 Some wine - a glass of wine  
 (vino) (un vaso de vino)

Usamos **'some'** con los nombres **plurales e incontables**.

Ej. *Would you like some coffee?*  
*Would you like some biscuits?*

**SOLUCIONES**

| Countable         | Uncountable    |
|-------------------|----------------|
| a banana          | tea            |
| a tomato          | chocolate cake |
| an omelette       | cheese         |
| chips             | fruit          |
| a glass of whisky | orange juice   |
| biscuits          | red wine       |
| mushrooms         | chicken soup   |
| a cup of coffee   | beer           |

**Some and Any**

**Usamos 'any' en lugar de 'some' en las frases negativas y en muchas de las preguntas.**

Ej. *Is there any bread?* / *¿Hay pan?*

*You don't have any money* / *No tienes dinero*

*We don't have any milk* / *No tenemos nada de leche.*

*Do they have any children?* / *¿Tienen hijos?*

Ejercicio: Fíjate en la lista de la compra de Stephanie para mañana y rellena los espacios en las frases.

I need  bread.

I need  biscuits.

I don't need  milk.

I need  cheese.

I need  melon and  oranges, but I don't need  bananas and I don't need  apples.

I need  cigarettes and  newspaper. I need  bottle of Bacardi and  beer.

## SOLUCIONES

I need **some** bread and I need **some** biscuits. I don't need **any** milk, but I need **some** cheese. I need **a** melon and **some** oranges, but I don't need **any** bananas and I don't need **any** apples. I need **some** cigarettes and **a** newspaper. I need **a** bottle of Bacardi and **some** beer.

**Ejercicio: ¿Cómo se hace una tortilla de patatas?** Rellena los espacios con 'a', 'some' o 'any':

1. You need  potatoes.
  2. You need  eggs.
  3. You don't need  meat
  4. You need  olive oil.
  5. You need  salt.
  6. Do you need  garlic?
  7. Do you need  milk?
  8. You need  frying pan.
- eggs=*huevos*  
meat=*carne*  
olive oil = *aceite de oliva*  
salt = *sal*  
garlic = *ajo*  
frying pan = *sartén*

## SOLUCIONES

1. some 2. some 3. any 4. some 5. some 6. any 7. any 8. a

Para hacer frases diciendo "Hay tal cosa en tal sitio" utilizamos "there is" o "there are".

Fíjate en la tabla siguiente:

|             |          | affirmative                    | negative                         | interrogative                 |
|-------------|----------|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| countable   | singular | There <u>is</u> a banana.      | There <u>isn't</u> a banana.     | <u>Is there</u> a banana?     |
|             |          | There <u>is</u> an orange.     | There <u>isn't</u> an orange.    | <u>Is there</u> an orange?    |
|             | plural   | There <u>are</u> some bananas. | There <u>aren't</u> any bananas. | <u>Are there</u> any bananas? |
|             |          | There <u>are</u> some oranges. | There <u>aren't</u> any oranges. | <u>Are there</u> any oranges? |
| uncountable |          | There <u>is</u> some milk.     | There <u>isn't</u> any milk.     | <u>Is there</u> any milk?     |